



Message from Kate Brewster, Executive Director

November 16, 2009

I am pleased to announce that ten years after being founded at the Rhode Island College School of Social Work, The Poverty Institute is incorporating as a non-profit organization.

In 1999, The Poverty Institute was founded by two passionate volunteers - the late Nancy Gewirtz, a longtime professor of social work, and attorney Linda Katz, who now serves as policy director. Today we have a growing team of expert staff and a dedicated Board of Directors. Becoming a separate organization will help us continue to grow and build on our successes advocating for low- and modest-income Rhode Islanders.

With the incorporation, our staff will assume responsibility for back-office functions such as accounting and human resources administration. The organization will rent office space at the Rhode Island College School of Social Work. As we have always done, we will continue to raise our own funds through competitive grants and individual contributions.

We look forward to future collaboration with the faculty and students at the School of Social Work about issues such as health care, child care, cash assistance, workforce development and taxation.

About The Poverty Institute

The Poverty Institute is a non-partisan organization that develops and promotes policies to improve the economic security of low- and modest-income Rhode Islanders and to ensure that tax and budget policies are equitable and adequate to fund vital public services. Financial support comes from foundations, corporations, and individuals who care about social change and economic justice. For more information visit www.povertyinstitute.org.